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Agenda item 2
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Letter dated 2 May 2005 from the Chairperson of the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

With reference to Economic and Social Council decision 1999/256 of 27 July 1999, in particular its paragraph (b) (i), in which the Council approved the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights that the Council include in its resumed organizational session consideration of any new proposal regarding special procedures or mandates adopted at the annual session of the Commission, I would like to draw your attention to the following decision adopted by the Commission in 2005.

Decision 2005/116, entitled "Proposed reform of the Secretary-General in the area of human rights", which was adopted by the Commission on Human Rights on 22 April 2005 by a recorded vote of 34 to 15, with 4 abstentions. In that decision, it is recommended that the Economic and Social Council endorse the decision of the Commission to establish an open-ended working group to convene a five-day intersessional meeting in June 2005 to reflect coherently on the recommendations on human rights contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/59/2005), with a view to contributing to the intergovernmental deliberations on the proposed reform of the United Nations in the General Assembly. It is also recommended that the Council endorse the decision to convene a one-day special session of the Commission to formally adopt the outcome of the open-ended working group and to transmit it to the Secretary-General, through the Council.

An advance copy of decision 2005/116 is attached for ease of reference (see annex I) with all relevant information regarding the programme budget implications of the draft decision (see annex II).

I kindly request that you arrange for the consideration of and action on decision 2005/116 by the Economic and Social Council at the earliest possible opportunity. You may wish to note that, should the Council endorse the recommendations contained in the decision, the dates of the proposed meetings, as identified in consultation with Conference Services in Geneva, would be 27 June to

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1 July 2005 for the meetings of the open-ended working group and 18 or 19 July 2005 for the one-day session of the Commission on Human Rights to adopt the outcome of the working group.

I would also kindly request that you consider circulating the present letter and its annexes as a document of the Economic and Social Council.

(*Signed*) Makarim **Wibisono**
Chairperson of the sixty-first session of
the Commission on Human Rights

Annex I

Commission on Human Rights decision 2005/116

Reform proposed by the Secretary-General in the area of human rights

1. At its 62nd meeting, on 22 April 2005, the Commission on Human Rights, taking into account the report of the Secretary-General entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (A/59/2005) on, inter alia, the reform of the Commission, and bearing in mind the recommendations contained in the reports of the panels commissioned by the Secretary-General, that is, the report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change entitled "A more secure world: Our shared responsibility" (A/59/565 and Corr.1) and the Millennium Project report entitled *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, decided, by a recorded vote of 34 votes to 15, with 4 abstentions, to establish an open-ended working group, to be chaired by its current Chairperson, which will convene a five-day intersessional meeting in June 2005 to reflect coherently on the recommendations on human rights contained in the report of the Secretary-General with a view to contributing to the intergovernmental deliberations on the proposed reform of the United Nations in the General Assembly and, to this end, also decided to convene a one-day special session to formally adopt the outcome of the open-ended working group and transmit it to the Secretary-General through the Economic and Social Council.

2. The Commission also decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the following draft decision for adoption:

> "The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 2005/116 of 22 April 2005, endorses the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to establish an open-ended working group, to be chaired by the Chairperson of its sixty-first session, to convene a five-day intersessional meeting in June 2005 to reflect coherently on the recommendations on human rights contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/59/2005), with a view to contributing to the intergovernmental deliberations on the proposed reform of the United Nations in the General Assembly. The Council also endorses the decision to convene a one-day special session to formally adopt the outcome of the open-ended working group and transmit it to the Secretary-General, through the Council."

Annex II

Draft resolution E/CN.4/2005/L.101

Reform proposed by the Secretary-General in the area of human rights

Oral statement

1. This statement is made in accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

2. Under the terms of draft resolution E/CN.4/2005/L.101, the Commission on Human Rights would decide to establish an open-ended working group to be chaired by its current Chairperson, which would convene in a five-day session from 27 June to 1 July 2005 to coherently reflect on the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on human rights, with a view to contributing to the intergovernmental deliberations on the proposed reform of the United Nations in the General Assembly, and to that end the Commission would convene a one-day session on 18 or 19 July 2005 to formally adopt the outcome of the open-ended working group and transmit its outcome to the Secretary-General through the Economic and Social Council.

3. The five-day session of the open-ended working group would require provisions for conference servicing as follows (in United States dollars):

Section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services	157,200
Section 29E, Administration, Geneva	3,300
Total:	**160,500**

4. The one-day session of the Commission on Human Rights would require provisions for conference servicing as follows (in United States dollars):

Section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services	104,000
Section 29E, Administration, Geneva	1,000
Total	**105,000**

5. No provisions have been made under the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 to convene the two envisaged meetings. Should the draft resolution be adopted, it will not be possible to absorb additional conference-servicing requirements detailed in paragraphs 3 and 4 above. Therefore, an additional appropriation by the General Assembly of $261,200 would be required under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, and of $4,300 under section 29E, Administration, Geneva.